

**March 3, 2010 Public Hearing**

**Attn: Judiciary Committee Members-Connecticut General Assembly**

**Re: Avoletta vs. State of Connecticut (H.J.No.6)**

**File#: 21101,21102 & 21103**

**Dr. Joseph Audie and Mrs. Nicole Audie's personal statement. Prepared June 2008.**

As university and high school educators, who believe that every child has a right to a good and equitable education, and as spectators to the last seven years, we think that we can offer a unique and valuable perspective of the legal and educational struggles that have plagued the Avoletta family. In short, we are horrified that the state of Connecticut and the Torrington school district failed in their mission to provide an education for Matthew and Peter, casually dismissed the expert opinions of the children's medical doctors, and failed to provide a speedy and just resolution to the case at hand.

It is an egregious violation of the fundamental principles of justice for government to collect taxes and impose truancy laws, while it simultaneously fails to discharge its solemnly pledged duty to provide for a child's education. Such a state of affairs compels parents to incur massive expenses as they seek to provide for their children's education in a private setting, expenses that most families simply cannot afford. It is equally appalling that state officials would disregard the expert opinions of the medical doctors who cared for Matthew and Peter. Finally, it shocks the conscience that the same government and school district would fail to bring such a case to a speedy and mutually agreeable resolution, especially given that the plaintiff was only seeking after simple cost reimbursement for the expense of educating her children.

The last seven years have been hell for the Avoletta family. The family is on the verge of bankruptcy and Mathew and Peter suffered needlessly as their mother and father struggled to provide for their education. All involved have been put under enormous stress and have suffered accordingly.

Simply stated, it is absurd and unacceptable that it would take this long and be this costly for the state and the Torrington school district to find a just solution to a real problem, the problem of educating two innocent boys according to the advice of their doctors, the dictates of common sense, and the reasonable desires of their loving parents. All officials involved should be ashamed that it has come to this.



Dr. Joseph Audie



Mrs. Nicole Audie